

North, Torrance Win at Compton



APACHE ATTACK . . . Tiny guard Bob Romero of Torrance High attempts to ward off a Centennial Apache defender Tuesday night in the consolation finals of the Compton Tournament. Romero came up with 18 points to pace the Tartars to their third straight triumph in the tourney. (Herald Photo)

Tartars Surprise Consolation Foes

Rapidly maturing Torrance High capped a three-game winning streak with a 70-61 win over Centennial Tuesday night to capture the consolation championship in the Compton

Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Suddenly maturing as a team, the pressing, fast-breaking Tartars received top-rate performances from Mike Hatter, Bob Romero and Gary White to upend the favored Apaches.

Hatter dropped in 11 field goals and wound up with 23 points to top all scorers. Romero, a steady playmaker, canned 18 points while White contributed 10.

The contest was nip-and-tuck until the final eight minutes. After one quarter of play, the count was knotted at 18-18 and Torrance held a slim 34-32 margin at intermission. When the buzzer sounded after three periods, Centennial had inched back to tie the score at 49-49.

FROM THERE ON out it was all Torrance as Romero, Hatter and Walt Hale riddled the Apaches with stolen passes and fast breaks that resulted in crumpled shots.

Despite a tremendous edge in height, Centennial managed to place only two men in the double-figure category. Jesse Stasher flipped in 20 points and Robert Charles added 10 markers.

Torrance wangled its way into the consolation finals with a 73-64 win over Long Beach Jordan Monday night. Mike Blankenship, the lone Tartar letterman, canned 20 points.

HALE CAME UP with 18 markers and Hatter added 15 as Torrance built up a big three-quarter margin and simply hung on.

At halftime the Tartars owned a 36-32 edge. The third quarter proved to be the turning point in the contest as Torrance racked up 17 more counters while Jordan could manage only five points.

In the opening game of the tournament, Torrance dropped a one-sided nod to defending CIF titlist Compton and then came back to edge cross-town rival South High by one point.

City Loops Begin Play Saturday

More than 800 boys in Torrance are expected to meet in gyms at North, South, and Torrance high schools Saturday morning for tip-offs in the Torrance Recreation Department leagues.

A six-team Big Ten League for high school boys will open next Wednesday evening at North High. Two other high school leagues will begin play Thursday evening at South High.

Season play for the 12- and 13-year-old loops will end March 7 when the city playoffs are scheduled to begin. Boys still interested in joining a team should contact the coach at North, South, or Torrance high schools.

Ex-North Star Bids for Position On UOP Quintet

Former North High athlete Eric Jacobs is currently bidding for a starting position on the University of the Pacific basketball squad.

A 6-1, 185-pound guard, Jacobs played sparingly as a sophomore last season but is expected to see plenty of action this year due to his shooting ability.

Jacobs, a history major, earned the Most Valuable Player Award for his performance on the Tiger baseball squad last season.

Cagers to Start Loop Action

All four Torrance high school cage squads will draw rough starting assignments as league campaigns get underway tomorrow night.

North High, possibly one of the CIF's top quintets, meets a potentially powerful Morningside team at 8 p.m. on the Monarch court. North has three impressive tournament performances behind it, but Morningside has also been outstanding on occasion in pre-league tilts.

IN THE opening round of the Beverly Hills Tournament, Morningside handed defending CIF champ Compton a one-sided licking. In the Inglewood Tournament, the Monarchs ripped Pioneer League favorite Aviation in the final round to gain the title.

Pacing North will be 6-5

center Al Lepper and guard Terry Tierney. Both Lepper and Tierney wound up on the All-Compton Tournament team Tuesday when North waltzed off with third place.

Torrance High, consolation champ in the Compton Tournament, will test its Pioneer League chances at Aviation. A young club with only one letterman, the Tartars have suddenly matured and figure to give Aviation all it can handle. Torrance, led by all-tourney player Mike Hatter, chalked up three consecutive triumphs at Compton.

SOUTH HIGH may pick up the toughest starting assignment of the lot as it travels to Redondo in a Bay League engagement.

Redondo has been tabbed as the Bay loop favorite with

Mira-Costa second and South third. The Seahawks own an impressive pre-league record, boasting the Pacific Shores championship and two lopsided wins over North.

Combating a trio of Redondo sharpshooters that have averaged 50 percent or better twice this season will be South's Don Denson, who carries a 24-point scoring average.

While Denson was away on vacation during the holidays, South surprised itself by advancing to the consolation finals of the Covina Tournament. Veteran center John Thomas, junior Dave Kuckenbecker and his sophomore brother Steve sparked the well-balanced Spartans.

ALTHOUGH West High has yet to win a game, Warrior mentor Tom Sutherland feels

he has potentially the best team in the Pioneer League. The Redskins will open their campaign against defending CIF "AA" division champ El Segundo on the Torrance High court.

West depends on Richard Hall for scoring punch, but the 6-foot forward has failed to deliver in recent games. Although he owns the Warrior scoring mark at 24 points, Hall has been averaging slightly over 10 digits in recent contests.

West Five Continues Loss Skein

West High's basketball squad remained winless Tuesday afternoon as Beverly Hills registered a 65-49 non-league triumph.

Deadly Warren Tetley popped in 24 points, 22 of them coming from the field, to pace Beverly in the lopsided triumph. An All-Pioneer League selection last season, Tetley consistently hit from 15 to 20 feet out.

With only two minutes remaining in the first period, West had battled the taller Normans to an 11-11 deadlock before Beverly's full-court press suddenly took effect. When the second stanza opened, West trailed by a 19-11 margin.

Beverly Hills boosted its margin to 37-22 before halftime and the game Warriors could not catch up despite a 14-point performance from forward Richard Hall and a 10-point effort by defensive expert John Marsden.

Inability to hit from the free throw line hampered Coach Tom Sutherland's crew throughout the afternoon. The Warriors attempted 30 charity tosses and connected on only 15.

Sutherland, still attempting to find a winning combination, substituted freely throughout the game and eight Warriors wound up in the scoring column.



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GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

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COMEBACK FAILS

Knights Begin League Play With Loss to St. Bernards

Despite a traumatic comeback in the final three minutes, Bishop Montgomery opened its 1964 Camino Real cage season with a 67-61 loss to St. Bernards Tuesday night.

Trailing by as much as 15 points during the fourth quarter, Montgomery suddenly caught fire, taking advantage of five missed St. Bernards free throws to close the gap to four points with only 23 seconds left in the game.

With three starters out on fouls, it remained for 6-7 freshman John Pleick to carry the load for Montgomery. Twice Pleick dropped in the first shot on a one-and-one situation for the Knights, and during the final seconds his rebounding

kept alive the sudden BMHS rally.

Four St. Bernards starters connected in double figures to pace a third- and fourth-quarter splurge that killed Montgomery. Mike Harrigan pumped in 22 points, Paul Cardenas added 15 and Pat O'Neil and John Leamy contributed 10 apiece for the winners.

Montgomery was very much in the ball game until the waning minutes of the third quarter when a see-saw battle turned into a potential rout.

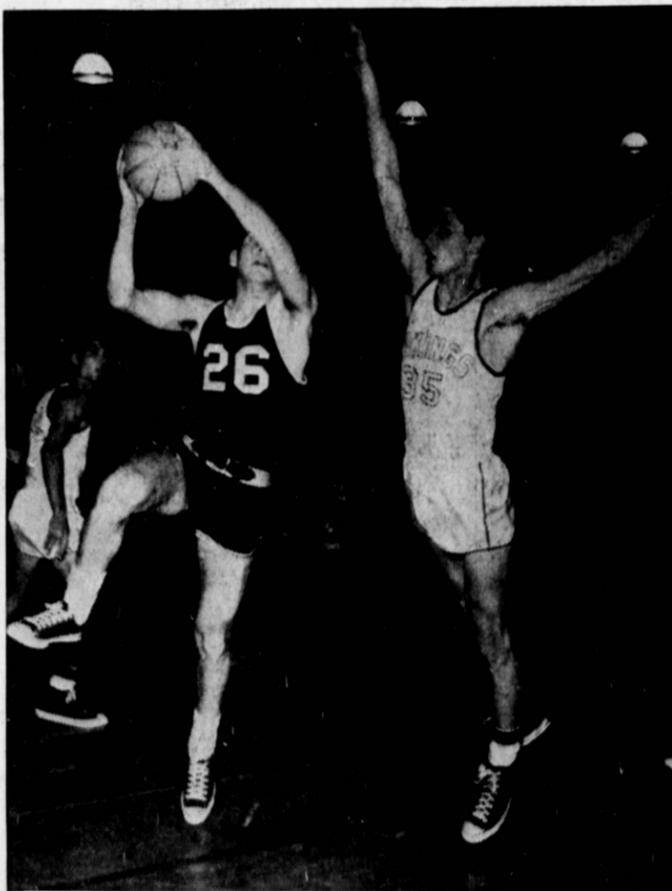
The count was knotted at intermission, 25-25, and the lead changed hands incessantly in the third stanza as sharpshooting Tony Guggiana, al-

most single-handedly carried the Knight cause.

Guggiana carded 12 points and 10 of them came in the third quarter. When Guggiana lost his hot hand, St. Bernards suddenly shoved ahead and went into the final period with a 46-43 bulge.

Steady Pete Maccarrone topped the Knights with 20 points while Bill Brown shot away at a 15-point clip. Maccarrone, Brown and Guggiana exited in the fourth period on fouls.

Even though the Knights were missing three starters, it was not until Harrigan hit two free throws with just four seconds left that St. Bernards salted the game away.



DEMON DEFENDER . . . Mike Harrigan of St. Bernards soars down on Bishop Montgomery's Dennis Blackburn to block a shot during the opening round of Camino Real League competition on Tuesday. Harrigan canned 22 points to pace the winners while Blackburn, who had difficulty finding the bucket, finally fouled out late in the final period just before Montgomery went on a scoring splurge that cut St. Bernards' winning margin to 67-61. (Herald Photo)



BIG STRETCH . . . North High's 6-5 center, Al Lepper, hurls above a Palmdale defender for a short two-pointer Tuesday night in a contest for third place in the Compton Tournament. Lepper's 10 points helped push the Saxons to an 87-64 triumph over the highly-regarded Falcons. (Herald Photo)

Saxons Grab Third With Palmdale Rout

Giant-killing North High handed reportedly tough Palmdale an 87-64 licking Tuesday night to pick up third place in the Compton Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Unheralded Terry Tierney took the play away from Bruce Nelson, the tournament's top scorer, to pace the one-sided victory.

Scoring on driving, twisting shots, Tierney flipped in 29 points, his highest scoring output as a Saxon. Nelson, who canned 44 markers in Palmdale's first-round win over South High, managed 27 points.

FROM THE beginning the contest matched North's fire-engine offense against Palmdale's pattern-type of play, and after one quarter of action, the invaders held a 15-14 edge.

Nelson, who kept North worried all night with his deadly outside shooting and unbelievable inside maneuvering, slipped in a twisting lay-up as the first quarter buzzer sounded to give Palmdale the bulge.

Although the game had been close up to that point, North suddenly solved the pressing Palmdale defense and erupted to spring ahead at intermission.

EVERYTHING CLICKED for the Saxons after the halftime break but Palmdale turned ice cold and North raced into a 53-41 bulge by the time the final eight minutes were ready to begin.

With Coach Skip Enger substituting freely, North continued to build its lead and Palmdale never threatened.

Tierney was deadly when it counted, ramming home 10 points in both the second and final quarters to keep North ahead. Guard Dennis Irelan added 12 points and centers Ron Taylor and Al Lepper contributed 10 more apiece.

TAYLOR, AT 6-7, one of North's most important rebounders, sat out approximately seven minutes of the third period after collecting three fouls.

Monday night, North was knocked out of a possible championship by CIF powerhouse Long Beach Poly. Four Poly starters hit in double figures as North dropped a 77-66 decision.

Lepper came up with 23 points for North, Taylor added 17 more and Tierney contributed 12, but Poly hit at a 53 per cent clip to derail the Saxons.

North mentor Skip Enger said he did not believe Poly took a bad shot until the fourth quarter. Enger felt his club had played a mediocre contest. Poly is currently rated second in the CIF.

Long Beach Rips El Camino Quintet

Perennial Metropolitan Conference cage powerhouse Valley will host inconsistent El Camino College tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the second circuit contest of the campaign for both quintets.

A conference darkhorse after a surprising performance in the Sam Barry Tournament over the Christmas holidays, El Camino received a tremendous jolt to its championship ambitions Tuesday night.

RED HOT Long Beach, coming off a 10-day layoff, rammed 58 per cent of its shots through in the first half and coasted to a 99-75 win over the Warriors. El Camino never led and managed only a 25-25 tie at one junction as the relaxed Vikings carted a 53-39 lead into the locker room and then withstood a late Redskin challenge.

Clark Canfield, who topped the Tribe with a 20-point performance, hit a hot streak midway in the second half and pulled El Camino to within seven points at 70-63, but that was as close as ECC came.

Never-miss Mike Waldie dumped in 27 markers to pace

the phenomenal shooting Norsemen. In the opening stanza, LBCC popped 25 of 43 shots through the cords.

Two other Long Beach starters wound up with more than 20 markers. Romie Hargrove accounted for 23 points and Benny Richard flipped in 21 more against the luckless Warriors.

Camino coach George Stanich sent his dazed crew into a full court press in the second half, but it was fruitless as Long Beach simply turned on the steam and built up its lead.

Hot Rod Entries Due For Winternationals At Pomona Strip

Entries are currently being accepted for the 1964 Winternationals Championship Drag Races on Feb. 14-16 in Pomona.

The National Hot Rod Assn. at 1171 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 29, is currently accepting entries. Wally Parks, president of the sponsoring NHRA, has announced that entries will be limited to 500 cars for the fourth annual winter classic.